

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2002

LR 386

campuses and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, by asking faculty and administrators throughout the university system to identify programs, services, and activities, and have a relationship to and serve rural development needs. The goal of the initiative is to engage university faculty and facilities to work more closely with rural communities to develop ideas about how the university can serve rural communities better. We should not only expect, I think, but demand that the university be more engaged in helping to solve these rural problems. The bill would have created a formal, rational planning framework with greater accountability to the Legislature. The university's Rural Initiative will proceed without LB 588, though. I do think it's important that we as a Legislature formally recognize and encourage the university to be more engaged in rural efforts, and I applaud the university for bringing a new energy and focus to rural agenda items through the Rural Initiative. The university will continue to rely on the variety of funding sources available to fund new and expanded activities identified in the Rural Initiative process. Individual faculty will seek available grant funding, utilize donations and foundation funds as well as other funding resources available to the university. By identifying the Rural Initiative as a priority, the university will likely internally reallocate resources toward Rural Initiative activities in its internal budget setting processes. I would urge the approval of LR 386, and I will offer the remaining part of my time to Senator Chambers, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I agree with what Senator Dierks said, and I am grateful for the fact that he was willing to put this into a resolution. And I've told him, and I want to say it on the record, I will do everything I can to make sure that the intents and purposes of the resolution will be carried out, and I hope our colleagues will vote in support of this resolution. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Anybody else wishing to speak of the LR 386? Seeing none, Senator Dierks, do you wish to close? He does not wish to close. The question